

## Meeting Notes

---

Eastern High School Community Forum

November 16, 2009

6:30-8pm

Eliot-Hine Middle School

Facilitator: Peggy O'Brien, Chief, Office of Family and Public Engagement

---

*If needed, disclaimer text can go here.*

### Overview:

The following are notes captured on wall posters during the community forum as attendees took a closer look at the sample schedules provided in the slide presentation. Please refer to the Powerpoint presentation given on November 16<sup>th</sup> (also available on the DCPS website) for the Student A, B, C1, C2, and C3 sample schedules.

### Notes:

#### Student A

##### **Strengths/ Benefits**

- Provides strong “basic” program
- Time for clubs, electives, etc.

##### **Considerations**

- More languages than Spanish
- Staffing stability/ quality
- Enough students to offer array of classes
- Summer Bridge would be important to build community, academic readiness and to enhance school culture
- Summer Bridge for all incoming students or just 9<sup>th</sup> grade?

##### **Clarifying Questions**

- Can students take AP courses in this option? (A: YES.)
- What is going to happen to a student that comes into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade far behind or far ahead?

---

## Student B

### ***Strengths/ Benefits***

- Offers exposure via foundation course early enough to still select a schedule like Student “C” if the student is interested.

### ***Considerations***

- Student interested in arts at Eastern as his/her neighborhood school – will there be electives? (x3)(A: YES)
- Make sure free electives also include areas not in Small Learning Community themes (x3)

### ***Clarifying Questions***

- Is every student in an academy? And how organized by counselors?
- Why isn’t Economics in here? Principles of Business?
- Are all of the classes “general population” courses? [I think this group was asking about core classes – are they taken only with students in your SLC or do the core classes mix students from various SLCs?]
- What happens to students who transfer in and out? (x2)
- Will there be multiple languages offered?
- 4x4 vs. 7 period day? Both have obstacles (forgetting what was learned fall semester to fall semester / student stress levels with 7 classes)
- Can students self-select or will they need to pre-qualify for AP courses?
- What support structures are going to be in place to challenge all?
- Why is IB not presented?

## Student C1 (Bioscience/Medicine)

### ***Strengths/Benefits***

- Capstone project
- Allows focused student to “go for it”/ add depth

### ***Considerations***

- Additional electives
- Additional World Languages (x2)
- Introduce rigorous classes earlier

- 
- Could IB Diploma Program fit in?
  - Supports for struggling students - Small group advisory for grades 10-12

#### ***Clarifying Questions***

- If IB is an option, will there be a pre-requisite to gaining access to the IB courses?
- How late could a student join the IB program?
- How will faculty direct capstone projects?

### **Student C2 (Law, Government, Public Service)**

#### ***Strengths/Benefits***

- Capstone project
- Theme connects different disciplines
- Internships (esp summer)

#### ***Considerations***

- African American History/ Studies
- Arts and Humanities
- DC History

#### ***Clarifying Questions***

- What do you do for remedial students?
- What total number of students is needed to support budget for AP Math (Calculus)?
- Is Phys Ed required beyond 9<sup>th</sup> grade?
- How will rising Freshmen be prepared to take on rigorous curriculum?
- Clubs and extra-curriculars? Is there room in the schedule?
- Define “Medallion.” Is it recognized by Universities? Employers? Other HS?
- Role of Capstone Projects in workforce entry?
- What advanced Spanish courses will be available to neighborhood students from Tyler’s Spanish immersion program?
- Increase AP Government to 1.0-1.5 credits.
- What happens if you don’t take electives?

### **Student C3 (International Studies)**

#### ***Strengths/Benefits***

- Opportunity for “real world” experiences.

---

### ***Considerations***

- Cannot provide AP Physics without a prior Calculus class.
- Ensure that the prerequisites for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade/ college are made very clear to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Increase Government courses earlier.
- Summer Internships and Externships
- Include Theater in electives
- Consider AP offerings for all subject areas or IB as a “theme” academy.
- Flexibility for students to do advanced classes earlier than started (i.e. 9<sup>th</sup> grade = Algebra II)
- More languages offered

### ***Clarifying Questions***

- How will DCPS ensure that Freshmen are prepared for Eastern? Programs at Eliot-Hine/ Jefferson/ Stuart-Hobson?
- Is IB still being considered as a theme / academy?
- How do students interested in a career in the arts have the chance to pursue their interests?